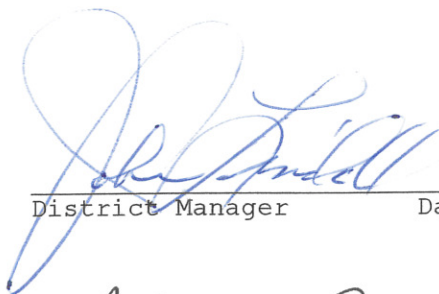
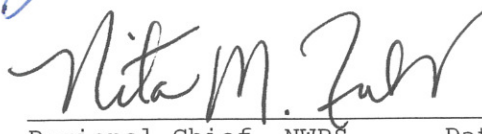


Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish  
Refuge, McGregor District

McGregor, Iowa  
1998

  
District Manager Date

 12/17/03  
Refuge Complex Manager Date

 2/20/2004  
Regional Chief, NWRS Date

## INTRODUCTION

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## Highlights

Forty-nine bald eagle nests on the District.

Highest canvasback concentrations since 1978 recorded on November 4.

Storms result in cleanup efforts at Bagley landing and District office.

Bat cave reopened and interpretive sign placed at McGregor District office.

Trees planted at Patzner field, Pool 11.

Drug Dog task force sweeps Pools 10 and 11.

Acquisition requests sent to Realty for Driftless Area NWR.

Flood crew completes landing cleanups and renovations.

Excess FEMA trailer acquired for additional office space.

New tractor acquired.

## 1. MONITORING AND STUDIES

### 1.a. Surveys and Censuses

Bald eagle nesting activity surveys were conducted. This year there were thirty nests in Pool 9, ten in Pool 10, and nine in Pool 9 for a total of 49 nests in the District. Bald eagle production surveys were completed for the District on June 17. Thirty one active nests were checked for a total of 50 young counted. Average young per nest was calculated to be 1.61. Several nests were blown down in the damaging spring storms, and three nests were found with dead young on the ground. A golden eagle and an osprey were sighted at Butler Lake, Pool 10 during the nesting activity surveys.

The activity phase of the colonial nesting bird survey showed nine active rookeries this year, two of which were new. 1704 great blue heron nests were counted as compared to 1787 nests in 1996. The Butler Lake rookery had an increase in heron nests, a decrease in cormorant nests, and fluctuations in great egret nests. Colonial nesting bird production surveys were completed for the District on June 15. Eight of the District's nine previously active rookeries were surveyed for production. Two rookeries in Pool 9 and one in Pool 10 were found to have significant wind damage from severe spring storms; one of the Pool 9 rookeries was apparently abandoned. The average number of great blue heron young per nest for the District was calculated at 1.73, for a total production estimate of 2,943 young. Butler Lake Rookery, the only rookery on the District with nesting double-crested cormorants and great egrets, had production estimates calculated at 2.17 young per nest for double-crested cormorants and 2.0 young per nest for great egrets. An estimated 252 cormorants were raised in the rookery this year. Great egret production estimate was not extrapolated due to insufficient sample size.



Frog and toad surveys were completed on pools 9 and 11. During the first phase of the survey, a number of survey points were not accessible due to high river stages. The survey was conducted as close to the fixed point as possible. A total of eight anuran species were recorded during this year's survey. Species were similar on both routes with the exception of cricket frogs heard on the second and third runs of the Pools 10/11 route. They were at the Potosi Point site. Volunteer Tom Sandersfeld completed the Pool 9 surveys for the District.

The three phase rail and bittern survey was completed for two routes on the District. Three Sora rails and two Virginia rails were heard on the southern Pool 10 route, and seven Virginia rails and a least bittern were heard on the northern Pool 9

route.

Staff assisted Refuge biologist Nelson with invertebrate sampling on Pools 9 and 10.

#### 1.b. Studies and Investigations

Staff assisted researcher Eric Thorson capture swans in Pool 9 for a study with the University of Minnesota. Four swans were captured, banded, and outfitted with transmitters. Capture efforts occurred at night.

### 2. HABITAT RESTORATION

#### 2.b. Upland Restoration

Service grassland biologist Kurt Waterstradt from the Madison private lands office visited the McGregor District and the Driftless Area to provide advice on management of grassland areas. Plans were developed for the Quality Beverage, Patzner, and Dago Slough tracts adjacent to the river and for the Howard Creek Unit of the Driftless Area NWR. He will also help in the future with seed orders and management questions.

Fields #3 and #11 within the Dago Slough bottoms were planted with a prairie mesic mix. Field #2 was also planted but with no prior treatment. Field #4 was strip planted along the west edge with no prior field treatment as well. The truax seeder from Winona/LaCrosse and operator Steve Erickson made the operation possible.

Because of additional funding under the Presidential funding, ROS Henry, BT Casement and Henry, and Laborer Greener spent a Saturday removing red cedar and box elder trees, and a lot of sumac, from a piece of remnant prairie at the Howard Creek Driftless Area Unit. The trees were dragged to the bottom of the hill below the prairie, and will be burned along with the tract of prairie next spring. Seed was also purchased for future use in prairie restoration at the Howard Creek Driftless Area Unit.

A volunteer with the Iowa Prairie network conducted a plant species inventory on the remnant prairie sites on the Driftless Area NWR. He compiled a list of 31 species that is by no means complete but is a good start. Brian Meyer was contracted to bush hog box elders at the Howard Creek Unit of the Driftless Area NWR. This effort is an attempt to control a large field (about 20 acres) filled with young box elders in preparation for future seeding with native prairie grasses. Other control methods will likely be needed next year.

#### 2.c. Deep Water/Riverine Restoration

ADM Male sent a response to the Rock Island ES office on the site plan for the Turkey River Dredge Cut.

#### 2.d. Environmental Management Program

ROS Henry and ADM Male toured the Ambro Slough EMP project area. Representatives from WDNR, IDNR, Corps, and EMP coordinator Beseke also

attended. All current project features are intended to improve degrading fisheries habitat in the area.

The Bertom-McCartney project in Pool 11 was inspected and an evaluation report submitted to the Corps. A site visit was made with COE and WDNR to look at potential projects on Winnishiek and Hummingbird sloughs. ADM Male and ROS Henry attended a meeting in LaCrosse on the Harper's Slough EMP Project.

A site visit was made to the Pool Slough/Whalen tract for review for the proposed EMP project. Comments on the project were sent to Keith Beseke.

A section of the Lansing Big Lake dike that had washed out was worked on. The flood crew, ROS Henry, and a volunteer moved rock into the washed out area.

ADM Male and ROS Henry attended the Pool 11 Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project Coordination meeting in Cassville, Wisconsin. Project features were examined and some new possible modifications were discussed.

### **3. HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.a. Water Level Management**

Two visits were made to the John Deere marsh this spring to adjust stop logs in order to let water in and hold it. The water control structure at Cold Springs in Pool 9 was adjusted in spring and fall.

District staff replaced decks and made structural repairs to both work platforms associated with the water control structures at the Big Pond Unit in Pool 11. Both structures remain as leftovers from when the unit was managed as part of the old Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery

#### **3.b. Moist Soil Management**

Letters were sent out for bids for stoplogs to be made for the Guttenberg moist soil units. The Guttenberg units were opened to allow water in in March. Steve's welding, Guttenberg, Iowa, was contracted to fabricate devices for the Guttenberg



Ponds Moist Soil Units. Two lead wedges and a steel bar were created for each stop log structure to weigh the logs down and hold them tightly in place. They were tested out in the fall when the units were flooded for fall migration. Water was let out of the Guttenberg Ponds Moist Soils Units because river levels had risen in July. The dikes were mowed for routine maintenance as well.

An attempt was made to control burrowing rodents at the Guttenberg Moist Soil Units because of damage to the dikes. The main damage is from beavers and muskrats. Further measures will be needed in the future.

During November 39,660 duck-use-days were recorded within the Guttenberg Moist Soil Units.

### 3.d. Farming

The 1997 yield for the cooperative farming units at the Turkey River bottoms averaged about 130 bushels of corn per acre on their government share. The agreements for 1998 were modified slightly to reduce chemical use in the bottoms. Chemical free portions of each field were designated where coop farmers were not allowed to apply pesticides. There was mixed reaction to this.

### 3.e. Forest Management

District staff planted Swamp white oak and butternut hickory trees at Patzner field near Potosi, Wisconsin. The field is currently being managed as a forest area after a stand of 383 black walnut trees emerged in 1995. The walnut trees were pruned of their sucker shoots last spring, and again at the beginning of May. With the addition of the oak and birch trees, it will hopefully add beneficial forest habitat, somewhat rare to the Mississippi backwaters.

The severe winds that damaged other parts of the Refuge in June also caused forest damage to a unit of the Driftless Area NWR. Many large maple trees, among others, came down at the Fern Ridge Unit. Some fell onto one of the algific slopes but did not appear to cause damage to the habitat. The trees will be left in place on the slope as removal would be too damaging to the fragile habitat.

### 3.f. Fire Management

Three fire plans were submitted to the regional fire coordinator for review. A fire plan for Patzner field in Pool 11 was completed. A



Oak seedlings were planted at Patzner field.

burn plan was written for the Guttenberg Ponds moist soils unit in order to control vegetation on the dikes. Four employees completed physicals and physical testing for prescribed fire. ROS Henry and BT Henry assisted Effigy Mounds National Monument with a prescribed burn. The fire pumper that was acquired from Effigy Mounds National Monument was repaired and brought into working order for this year's burns.

### 3.g. Pest Plant Control

The Pesticide Use Report was compiled for the 1997 calendar year. Thirty acres of wildlife habitat and 336 acres of cropland were treated.

Information was sent to Bill Hutchinson regarding purple loosestrife plants on the District for the Weed Inventory/Survey. There were 95 acres of monotypic stand growth, and an estimated 480 acres with scattered plants present. A Habitat Management Activity RONS submission was sent to the RO detailing the proposal for purple loosestrife control on approximately 20,000 acres in Pool 11. Treatment would consist of chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods.

Rick Klann from Upper Iowa University submitted his report on release of purple loosestrife beetles in the District. 1000 beetles were released at Cold Springs landing in Pool 9, 1000 just north of lock and dam 9, and several thousand at the Guttenberg city ponds.

### 3.h. Other Habitat Management

ADM Male sent a reply to the John Deere company regarding the request for permission to burn debris. The burning was allowed, provided that the materials burned came from the detention basin or dike. Male also took the opportunity to address issues concerning the John Deere Spoils Site and the adjacent FWS managed wetland; the pipe located between the John Deere Spoils Cell and the FWS Managed Wetland that needed to be removed or capped, ruts and push piles in the dike access road that needed attention, and a leak in the water control structure in the managed wetland.

## 4. FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### 4.a. Bird Banding

MW Brown painted and attached wire to the new duck cages for banding. Unfortunately, the District was not able to participate in duck banding this year due to lack of time and personnel.

### 4.e. Pest, Predator and Exotic Animal Control

Gypsy moth traps were placed at selected islands along the main channel in Pools 9, 10, 11 at the request of the Iowa Department of Agriculture. Traps will be used to monitor the presence of gypsy moths on the islands. Gypsy moth trap results were forwarded to the USDA Forest Service. No moths were captured at the District's three trap locations.

A letter was sent to Mr. Dwight E. Scarbrough, entomologist for Forest

Health Protection of USDA in St. Paul, Minnesota. The letter stated that information about gypsy moths could be obtained from John Haanstad, Iowa State Entomologist. Mr. Scarbrough had wanted to place traps along the refuge, but between the various state requests and the Corps of Engineers sampling, it was felt that the area was covered.

## 5. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

### 5.a. Interagency Coordination

Mary Day, Regional Director for Senator Grassley's Office in Cedar Rapids, visited the McGregor District to learn more about the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Refuge. Jim Fisher, ADM Male, and ROS Henry answered questions and provided an overview of the District. Weather prevented a water view of the Refuge, but a vehicle tour proved to be just as beneficial.

A letter was sent to R. A. Mattson, Chief, Management and Disposal Branch, Department of the Army, Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers, regarding proposed soil boring by John Deere in the John Deere Marsh area. The letter stated that the refuge was not opposed to the soil borings if they were conducted under strict guidelines regarding timing of work, exact location, and equipment used. Timing was dependant on the bald eagle nest just NW of the wetland. The nest was unoccupied as of 2/13/98, but another site inspection was needed before work could commence. The value of the 34-acre wetland's stable water levels was also emphasized in regards to migratory bird habitat, specifically waterfowl and duck-use-days, nesting yellow-headed blackbirds, and the occurrence of numerous Sora rails and American bitterns.

The Refuge also indicated that John Deere would have to guarantee there would be no net wetland value loss, and if work was allowed to proceed, that they should reciprocate in some manner. Two suggestions made were to have John Deere drill a dedicated well for the wetland, or to have them develop the John Deere Marsh Outdoor Education/Recreation Complex, a proposal made by the District in 1994. A commitment by John Deere was requested before the project could move forward.

ROS Henry set up a meeting and agenda with the Nature Conservancy to discuss future cooperative efforts regarding driftless area habitats. ROS Henry and acting District Manager Male attended the meeting in the Twin Cities. Complex manager Jim Fisher and ES biologist Gary Wege also attended. TNC is interested in focusing on specific areas of high diversity such as the Buck Creek watershed in Clayton County.

BT Henry did a site inspection for the Potosi Fire Department on a proposed fire station building site. The fire department requested assistance in a minimal effects determination from the proposed construction.

A thank you letter was sent to Gencor-Bituma for their assistance in unloading the new tractor and implements. The tractor had to be driven from their site to the District office as there was not sufficient space

to unload everything at the office.

#### 5.b. Private Lands

FMHA easement files were reviewed and landowner contacts made in preparation for upcoming inspections. All FMHA easements were inspected. Several violations were noted and were followed up with the landowners. Most notable was grazing on one easement. One landowner was cutting and planting trees as part of Pheasants Forever plans. Other minor violations were crop encroachments and equipment storage. Letters were sent to Mr. Darwin Eimers and Mr. Wayne Platte to follow-up on noted encroachment issues. Mr. Eimers' area involved cattle and crop encroachments, and Mr. Platte's involved illegal property storage and tree and shrub planting. A volleyball court had been erected on the Rosonke easement. The landowner was visited regarding the issue and he planned to remove it. Letters were also sent to three private landowners with FMHA Conservation Easements on their property to inform them of the recently completed annual site inspections, and to encourage them to contact the FWS if they had any questions or concerns regarding the easements.

Several landowner visits were made to assess potential projects including wetland and coldwater stream restoration. ROS Henry visited a potential streambank stabilization site with Jim Jannett of the Allamakee County Conservation Board. An agreement for streambank stabilization on Hickory Creek on the Luana, Iowa golf course was finalized in cooperation with the Hickory Creek Watershed project. An agreement was made for bank stabilization in Allamakee County in cooperation with the Allamakee County Conservation Board. ROS Henry and Biotech Henry attended the Wisconsin Private Lands meeting.

Previous private lands projects that still have existing agreements were checked to ensure the projects were still in place. Many landowners were happy to show off their projects and all were still in place.

A wetland project agreement was signed with a landowner along Bloody Run Stream in Clayton county for construction to begin this spring. A site visit was made to another Clayton County landowner with a wetland restoration site. A 40 acre fen in Clayton County was visited with NRCS and other agencies to discuss potential restoration options.

Services and supplies were ordered for the Bill Burke wetland restoration near Elkader, Iowa. The Iowa DNR supplied technical assistance and surveying for this project. The seed mix was ordered for the native prairie restoration on the Ronald Kroesche property under the Partners for Wildlife Program.

One landowner site visit was made in Grant County. Technical assistance was given to two landowners over the phone.

A letter was sent to Mr. Jim Fredrick, Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa, expressing the Service's support for the Upper Maquoketa River Watershed Project proposal by the IDNR. A large portion of the Maquoketa watershed falls in Clayton County, Iowa, and the Maquoketa River has long been identified as one of the major contributors of sediment to the Upper Mississippi River. This watershed improvement project was of great interest to the FWS and would benefit

the Refuge by decreasing sediment loads to the Mississippi River and improving fish and wildlife habitat both in the watershed and eventually the Mississippi River. The letter also indicated the possibility of Partners for Wildlife funds being available for various habitat recovery projects in the watershed.

ROS Henry attended an Allamakee County NRCS planning meeting on Williams Creek watershed which contains algific slopes. A letter of support was sent to the Allamakee Conservation District for the Williams Creek watershed project proposal. A large portion of the Williams Creek watershed falls within the McGregor District. This project would also benefit the Refuge through improved habitat, particularly several adjacent algific slopes. A meeting was also attended at Allamakee County NRCS for an update on projects along Paint Creek.

One site visit was made to a landowner concerned about a wetland area being placed in the riparian reserve with NRCS. NRCS required trees to be planted in the wet meadow area and the landowner questioned this. NRCS was contacted regarding the issue and was going to work further with the landowner.

One completed and two potential wetland restoration sites designed by the Fayette County Conservation Board were visited with Board staff.

## **6. RESOURCE PROTECTION**

### **6.a. Law Enforcement**

The McGregor District 1997 Annual LE Report was submitted to Tom Worthington at the RO. There were a total of 473 actual offenses/incidents, and 335 offenses/incidents reported through other agencies. There were 117 cleared by arrest or exceptional means, and a total monetary loss to the government of \$4,500. No part one offenses were reported. Eight traffic LE incidents were reported (not including DWI), and 78 natural resource violations (other than ARPA violations) were reported. There were 26 educational services recorded for the District, and 189 other service incidents.

Violations issued for FY1998 were as follows: Two parking violations, 4 no fishing license violations, violation of a permit, one boating under the influence of alcohol, 3 littering, 3 possession of alcohol while hunting, 4 violations of trapping permit, one boat left unattended, 3 overbag for waterfowl, one no duck stamp, one unsigned duck stamp, 2 fireworks, one spotlighting, one careless driving, one controlled substance, one trespass.

On October 12, 1997 the District conducted a roadblock fish and game check station. Refuge Officers from McGregor combined forces with Winona and LaCrosse Districts, Iowa DNR, and Special Agent Ed Spoon from Madison. The check station was run on the Army Road at New Albin, Iowa. Fourteen percent of individuals contacted during the operation were issued violation notices. The most common violation was the failure of hunters to leave some species identification on waterfowl during transport. A news release was issued to local news media about the operation. Several other citations were issued during the Fall 1997

waterfowl season. Three were issued for overbag, one for hunting without a license, one each for no state waterfowl and federal waterfowl stamps, three hunting while possessing alcohol, one littering, and one unsigned and unattached federal duck stamp. Several other citations were turned over to state wardens in the area.

McGregor District personnel assisted the IDNR and the Savanna District in a deer hunting task force on 11/22/97. Four citations were issued to Illinois deer hunters for hunting deer during a closed season in Iowa.

RO Dulik discovered a boat which was dumped on the Visgers boat landing on 11/26/97. The boat decals and numbers had been removed in an attempt to conceal ownership. Several interviews were conducted and one citation has been issued for dumping on a National Wildlife Refuge. RO Dulik testified on two cases from an LE detail in the LaCrosse District for violations of possession of marijuana and intoxicated boat operation. RO Dulik assisted Special Agents in operating a game check station at Goose Island in Pool 8.

The kiosk at the Turkey River landing was vandalized with brochure boxes and signs being destroyed.



A tract of land adjacent to the Turkey River bottoms and to land that the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was selling was visited by ROS Henry and INHF representatives to determine the Refuge boundary. This was a 2-3 acre parcel on the bluff. A marker was found and Refuge signs were placed at this point.

Snowmobile signs previously installed by DM Mullen authorizing this use were removed from the Sny Magill area in Pool 10.

ADM Male and MW Brown attended the annual 40 hour LE refresher. ROS Henry completed basic law enforcement training at FLETC.

A vehicle and a boat were outfitted with law enforcement lights to improve the District's LE capability.

Several areas were patrolled for dogs on the refuge and trespass violations.

Biotech Casement responded to a call about a barge beached on an Island near Lansing with potential tree damage. Apparently the boat lost an engine and due to high winds had to beach there rather than go into the Lansing marina. There was little damage to the island and no further action was taken.

Several news releases were sent out regarding law enforcement issues. A news release was sent out concerning the shooting of two immature bald eagles near Potosi, Wisconsin. WDNR and the USFWS were seeking any information related to the incident. The birds were apparently shot with a rifle while sitting in a large tree. The actual date of shooting was not yet known. It was believed to have occurred sometime between December 1997 and early January 1998. The two birds were recovered by WDNR Warden Rick DeWitte. The location of this incident was near the intersection of the Big Platte Road and Quarry Road in the Harrison Township, east of Potosi, Wisconsin. The birds were sent to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland, Oregon. When the final report is released, information as to exact caliber of the weapon used in this shooting and date and time of death will be available.

Another release was sent out regarding the six individuals and one company that were charged with federal wildlife offenses for transactions in unlawfully-taken clam shells at Muscatine, Iowa. They were each charged with a 59-count indictment with conspiracy and violations of the "Lacey Act", addressing interstate commerce in wildlife. The indictment was returned by the federal Grand Jury at Des Moines, Iowa on April 24, 1998, and specifically alleged that mussels, with a total value of more than \$300,00, were unlawfully taken in violation of the laws of Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Ohio, and were therefore transported, sold, and purchased at Muscatine. It further charged that the defendants conspired to transport and sell in interstate commerce mussels illegally taken in Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Ohio. Eleven counts alleged that false records were made at Muscatine in connection with the sales of mussel shells. The indictment resulted from an investigation conducted by FWS-Division of LE, the enforcement divisions of state natural resources departments in Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division.

A news release was sent out regarding the July 11 Drug Dog Task Force Sweep on the river. Law Enforcement officers from the Refuge, Clayton County Sheriff's Department, IDNR, and the Decorah Police Department participated. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Iowa, the Clayton County, Iowa Attorney, and the WDNR also aided in the operation. The focus of the effort was on underage consumption of alcohol, and the use of controlled substances on the river. The area of operation was a 16-mile stretch from Jack Oak Island south of Cassville, Wisconsin, to Frenchtown Lake Island north of Guttenberg, Iowa. Eight Federal and State violations were encountered, none involving drugs and five involving underage consumption. The results were deemed a success. It was confirmed that areas on the Refuge still offer a safe family atmosphere.

Letters were sent to Mr. Richard Murphy of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Ben Wyatt, Decorah Police Department Chief, informing them of the details of a planned multi-agency drug enforcement operation. The operation involved using two drug dogs and handlers from Northeast Iowa along with FWS Officers, the IDNR, Clayton County Sheriff's Department, the Grant County Sheriff's Department, and the WDNR, to sweep through camping areas in search of narcotics.

ADM Male issued a NOV to David Line of Potosi, Wisconsin for fishing without the required state license. Male had been conducting a Frog and Toad Survey when he observed suspicious behavior by two fishermen. When he asked Mr. Line to produce a fishing license, Lines finally confessed that he did not have one. One fishing pole was also seized. ADM Male drafted an incident report regarding the case. The case was scheduled to take place in November, when officials will attempt to remove Mr. Line's hunting and fishing privileges. The case was turned over to the WDNR State Warden Rick DeWitte when some investigating revealed a history of violations and suspensions. RO Male appeared in state court in Grant County, WI to give testimony on the case. After the testimony, the individual was found guilty, fined \$450 and lost hunting/fishing privileges for three years.

RO Brown conducted firearms qualification for the new park ranger from headquarters, Dave Lescalleet. ROS Henry attended the two week Refuge Officers Basic School at the National Conservation Training Center.

Officers Male, Lescalleet and Henry worked Pool 11 over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. One citation was issued for fireworks. A citation was also issued for fishing with no license. Five citations were issued in July for litter, travel on nondesignated route, and fishing without a license. Officers worked over the Labor Day weekend on Pools 9, 10, 11. RO Brown apprehended an individual with marijuana on Pool 10. The Iowa early duck season was worked by RO Male and Henry with assistance from headquarters RO Lescalleet and Wlosinski.

RO Brown and Henry investigated a tip on tree cutting in Pool 10. The trees appeared to have been cut to clear a view lane for a house across the road. The trees had been cut several months ago and no leads from the adjacent homeowners could be picked up.

ADM Male sent a letter to the Safety and Occupational Health Manager, Division of Safety, (SSA) FWS, Twin Cities, Minnesota, regarding a Tort claim filed by Mr. Dean Krieg. A chronological summary was attached outlining the documented events dealing with the issue. Mr. Krieg claimed that the FWS was responsible for his loss of 11 cows due to the negligence of keeping up the common fence on the Steeles Branch Unit of Driftless Area NWR's side of the pasture. The Service's contention was that there had not been cows in the aforementioned pasture since 1988, and when Mr. Krieg called in October 1997 advising he was going to release livestock into the pasture, and that fence was in need of repairs, he gave only two weeks notice. The FWS responded three days after the initial phone call by putting up a temporary electric fence until a permanent fence could be installed a month later. There was 61 feet of unfenced area that was the responsibility of Mr. Krieg. Mr. Krieg reported that 11 cows were missing after the permanent fence had been up for over a week, and he wanted the FWS to find them.

Boundaries on the Cow Branch Driftless unit were partially signed. Some of the survey markers could not be located and those corners will have to be signed after a surveyor locates them. The unit was purchased in 1996.

#### 6.b. Permits and Economic Use Management

Notification was sent to the permit holder of a waterfowl guiding service to submit the required information from his hunts. A Special Use Permit was provided to Donald Krueger and Tony Toye for waterfowl guiding services within the Refuge. A meeting was held with these two guides and Warden Ron Nerva from Wisconsin DNR to discuss blinds and refuge regulations.

Comments were provided to the COE on a proposed renewal of an easement contract. Letters were sent out to the two owners of fish float businesses on the District. Donald Bailey and Byron Clements both received Special Use Permits for the season, provided they signed the permit and additional sheets, sent a copy of a Certificate of Insurance and a copy of their pumping schedule for holding tanks, and sent a check made out to the FWS for \$100. A letter was sent to Mr. Robert Kurtt, IDNR, inquiring about the Special Use Permit for the Army Road, near New Albin, Iowa. The fully executed permit had not yet been received.

#### 6.f. Cultural Resource Management

A review of an archeological permit application was sent to the historian in the regional office.

#### 6.g. Land Acquisition Support

ADM Male and ROS Henry visited the Indian Isle land exchange site to inspect potential boundaries. ADM Male responded to Realty Specialist John Connors' request for information on the exchange of barge fleeting ADM land. The request for land acquisition was up for Washington Office approval, and needed verbal justification. The land is connected to the bottom land forest river corridor, and offers unique benefits as an important wetland/bottom land forest tract.

Mr. Raleigh Buckmaster contacted the office regarding a possible land exchange. He was interested in acquiring an 8 acre parcel of the Upper Miss Refuge in Pool 9. He would trade an algific slope site containing Northern monkshood to be added to the Driftless Area NWR. A site visit was made to inspect the Refuge tract and Buckmaster's tract. ADM Male subsequently sent a letter to Mr. Raleigh Buckmaster regarding his interest in exchanging property with the FWS. Refuge Manager Fisher suggested that the land trade would likely be possible due to the fact that it takes an act of Congress to remove property from a NWR.

Another landowner (LaVerne Plagman) contacted ROS Henry on the possible sale of an algific slope site with an Iowa Pleistocene snail population approximated at 1000. This site is near the existing Fern Ridge unit of the Driftless Area NWR. A letter was sent to Realty requesting they pursue acquisition of the Plagman tract for the Driftless Area NWR.

A letter was sent to the Review Appraiser at the RO regarding the possible purchase of two land tracts for the Driftless Area NWR. Both

properties had originally been identified for acquisition, but the property owners had been unwilling to sell at the time. One parcel was a 30 acre tract, containing 15 to 20 acres of pasture, and the remainder timber including the algific slope. The other parcel, 10 to 15 acres of timber, was originally sought as a buffer strip to algific slopes that we purchased from the same owner.

## **7. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RECREATION**

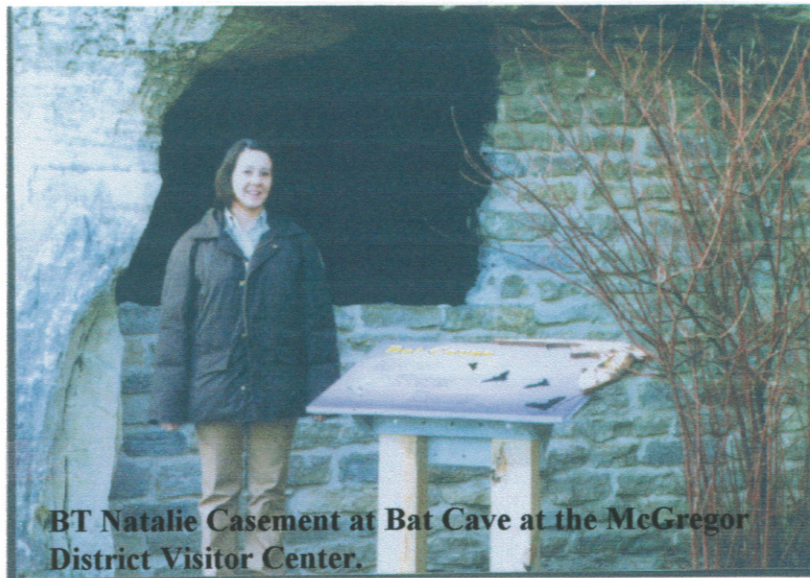
### **7.a. Provide Visitor Services**

The annual Boy/Girl Scout report was sent to Mr. Bradley at the RO. One Service employee contributed eight hours of official duty to the Boy Scouts.

AT Palmer ordered 500 Grassland Bird Posters from the Regional Audiovisual Librarian. An opsrey and great blue herons were sent to a taxidermist for mounting to be used in the Visitor Center. A golden eagle mount was completed and placed in the Visitor Center with the bald eagle.

New road signs for the Lynn Hollow, Bertom Lake, and Bagley Bottoms landings were ordered. Signs were ordered for the Cold Springs landing area regarding no boat mooring in the area. Two new signs were ordered for the Prairie du Chien causeway Refuge Recognition Sign, in accordance with new rules for existing logos. Staff members had tried to remove the blue goose symbol on the signs, but the signs were too damaged. Draft sign designs for the Ferryville observation deck were given to Hank Schneider at Headquarters. A 60"x42" sign was erected at the Lansing Field station to identify the facility and direct inquiries to McGregor.

The bat cave behind the office was reopened and an interpretive sign designed by BT Casement was placed there. A letter was sent to Sarah McCabe of Bat Conservation International in Austin, Texas, requesting information on graphics for a sign. BT Casement was working on a project that involved re-opening a portion of the blocked caves next to the DO/VCS, in the hopes that bats will come back and use the habitat for hibernation. In the hopes of creating bat habitat, a hole was knocked out of the blocked entrance to the cave next the DO/VCS. Measurements were recorded inside of the cave, including the dimensions of the two large chambers, and temperatures at different areas. Lazy Gate, in Marquette, Iowa, was hired to construct a gate for the opening according to the specifications found that would be large enough to allow bats to enter, but not young children. Due to the relative safety of the cave's location, the gate was made so that it could be removed with tools to allow periodic inspections.



Sign orders for the District were placed with Hank Schneider in Winona; 300 "You are within", 200 regulations, and 250 national wildlife refuge. Six Service emblems were also ordered to place on entrance signs in place of the blue goose emblems. Six 24" Service Emblems were also ordered to place on entrance signs over the blue goose for the required upgrade.

A petition was received from local citizens regarding the road to the New Albin landing in Pool 9. The matter was settled with the Iowa DNR. The McGregor District was able to provide gravel for the road through flood funds while the Iowa DNR coordinated the work on the ground. The primary citizen who organized the petition expressed his appreciation of the outcome.

The flood crew began work in March. Biological Technicians Patrick Henry and Natalie Casement, and laborer Bruce Greener were hired to work on flood damage cleanup and projects. The crew cleaned, painted, and repaired kiosks and restrooms at the landings as well as did general cleanup. Several new brochure boxes were installed. Odd jobs such as removing a dead cow out of the trees at the Potosi landing were part of their duties. Throughout the month of June, the flood crew worked on repairing and revamping the Lynn Hollow boat landing in Pool 11 with rock work, painting, and strategic boulder and fence post placement. After several setbacks, the landing was finally completed. The boat ramp at Winneshiek landing in Pool 9 was refurbished with gravel and straightening of the cement logs. Trees were cleared in a slough in Pool 10 to allow access to one of the bird point count sites and by the Fish Float at Lock and Dam 9. Guide posts were placed at several of the District's boat ramps to give better visibility on the edges of the ramps. An eyesore, junked dock was removed from its very visible spot along the main channel south of Lansing. The doors on the New Albin and Bagley bathrooms were repaired. Kiosk pads at Wyalusing and Bagley were installed and new gravel placed.



Lynn Hollow landing in Pool 11 was repaired.

A letter of support for a pedestrian/bike trail between McGregor and Marquette was sent to the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

A Challenge Cost-Share grant proposal was submitted to purchase an observation scope for the wildlife viewing structure in Cassville, Wisconsin. A request was sent to the Wisconsin DOT to replace a refuge recognition sign and two boat ramp signs that were removed several years ago for a construction project on the highway.

A letter was sent to the Iowa DNR informing them that we could not complete the riprap placement at the New Albin Boat Landing under the permit granted to us because of funding. Therefore, the permit was to be extended or canceled.

A contract was made with James Reynolds, of Cassville, Wisconsin, for snow removal/mowing, and refuse pickup at the Bertom Lake Landing in Pool 11.

Two doors were replaced on the women's bathrooms at the Bagley Bottoms Landing in Pool 10. The wooden doors that were on the bathrooms had been ripped off several times in vandalism incidents. The new steel doors and frames should hopefully deter this.

ADM Male sent a letter to Mr. Louis Okey congratulating him and the Village of Cassville on a job well done with the observation deck that was put up.

District staff members spent two days cleaning up debris and mud at the District office after a torrential spring storm caused a log jam to give way on the bluff above the office building. The highway in front of the office had to be shut down until county and city crews could clear away all of the logs, rocks, and trees. No permanent damage was done to the office site.

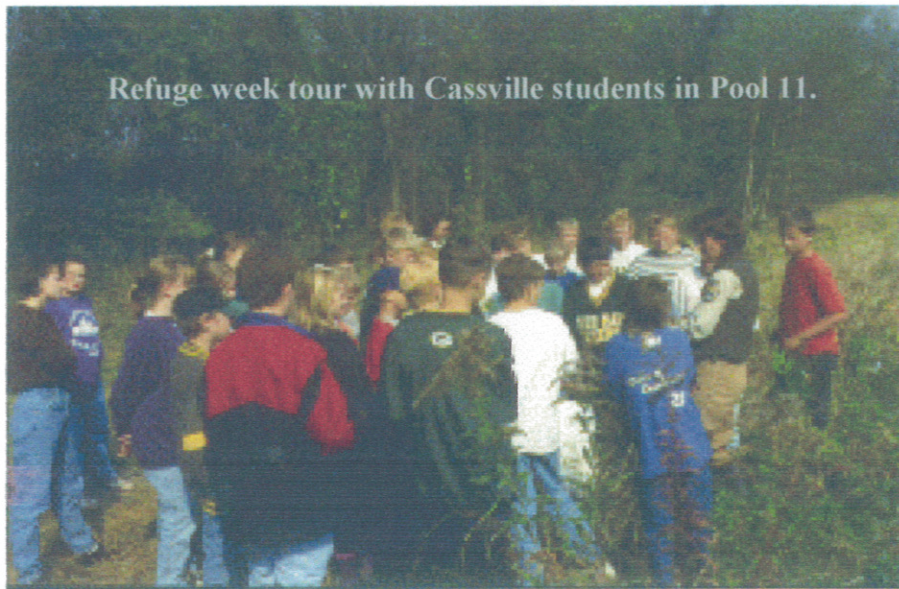
While conducting a rail/bittern survey early on the morning of June 19, it was discovered that another spring storm, this one with high damaging shear winds, had whipped through the Bagley Bottoms area. The road leading to the boat landing was covered with downed trees. A fisherman had been stranded at the landing the night before, and walked to town with his family. Staff members were able to cut a small path for them to get their vehicle out, and then spent the next couple of days chain sawing and dragging brush to the sides of the road. A bulldozer was brought in to finish the job.



Kowalski-Keiler, of Lancaster, Wisconsin, was contracted to do gravel and rock work at the Ambro Slough Landing near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. A contract was made with the Kramer Co., Plain, Wisconsin, for the dumping and spreading of gravel on the Bagley Bottoms Boat Landing Access Road.

#### 7.b. Outreach

National Wildlife Week celebrations included presentations to 125 fifth graders at Waukon schools. ADM Male, ROS Henry, and MW Brown gave a tour of the Dago Slough Area to 50 Cassville third graders. The tour included a hayride with stops to talk about the various habitats and wildlife on the Refuge. The day's activities were finalized with a campfire and marshmallow roast.



BT Dulik gave a presentation to 17 senior citizens in Waukon the evening of November 20. The Refuge slide show was shown with the mounted bald eagle also making an appearance.

Dan Sobieck (Public Affairs Office) visited the District and was given an overview of the District's activities including the Driftless Area NWR.

A request was sent to the Division of Fisheries for coloring books to be used for programs and the Visitor Contact Station.

A news release was sent to local papers about the Refuge's designation as globally important to migratory birds by the American Bird Conservancy. A request for the 'Birds of Two Worlds Poster' was made for distribution at schools and in the Visitor Center.

Information on endangered species in Iowa was sent to several students working on school projects. National Wildlife Week packets were distributed to elementary schools in the area.

ROS Henry gave a tour to a University of Northern Iowa environmental studies class. The class visited the Guttenberg ponds moist soils unit, the lock and dam, and other locations along the river in Pool 10.

ADM Male and ROS Henry attended and gave presentations at the First Annual Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges meeting on May 2. This was the annual meeting for all members and gave District staff an opportunity to educate and update members on what we do.

ROS Henry and BT Casement gave presentations to three groups of first grade children at the VCS in celebration of National Wildlife Week. Topics included habitat, waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals. A live toad and ducks from the freezer were deemed the

highlights of the show. ROS Henry attended a career day for 5th graders at MFL MarMac school.

ROS Henry talked at the Wisconsin Soil and Water Conservation Society tour about wildlife on the Mississippi River. A newspaper article on the tour covered the talk.

ROS Henry gave a talk on raptors of the Upper Mississippi River NWFR for the Effigy Mounds HawkWatch.

A tour of the Driftless Area Howard Creek Unit was given to George and Dorothy Hoffman of the Friends Group.

A newspaper article on this year's eagle nesting activity was released to local newspapers.

ROS Henry assisted with the Wisconsin DNR Teacher's workshop by talking about river habitats on a boat tour.

A slide projector, carousel, and ektagraphic remote control were purchased for presentations.

#### 7.d. Trapping

A corrected Fur Catch Report was sent to some trappers who had received reports with the wrong return address on them

ADM Male sent a confirmation to John Wetzel regarding trapping meetings. Proposals were made by the WDNR to open muskrat and mink trapping for the Mississippi River on the second Monday in November instead of the current rule which opens the season on the day following the end of the duck season-December 3 in 1997. Refuge closed areas would not be affected by the change. Male agreed to attend the March 5, 1998 meeting at the Prairie du Chien County Courthouse.

Comments were made on changes to the format and wording of the refuge trapping permit. A total of 155 trapping permits were sold this season. An additional fact sheet was given out with each Trap Permit this year expanding on "Attend" in the section on Prohibited Methods Acts. It also included information on multiple trap tags on one trap, and colony type traps.

#### 7.f. Other Public Use

In November Andrew McDermott from the RO Contracting Office visited the Bertom Lake Boat landing. He will be updating the current plans for the landing to reflect the downscaled renovations.

The RMIS Public Education and Recreation report for the McGregor District for the first quarter of 1998 was submitted to the ORP in Winona.

No unauthorized vehicle signs were placed at the Quality Beverage Site in Pool 10.

## 8. PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

### 8.b. General Administration

The MMS accomplishment report was submitted to the regional office. The MMS Project Listing for FY 1999 for the McGregor District was completed and sent to the RO. Projects included carpet and roof replacement at the DO/VCS, radio replacements and updates, gravel and landscaping needs at the boat landings, and replacement of a slide projector, cameras, a broken night scope, and spot lights on vehicles.

The Driftless Area NWR MMS FY99 update was forwarded to the RO. Projects listed included fence repairs, communication system updates, a Visitor Center Display, replacing the deteriorated bushhog, replacing worn-out pickup, worn-out water pumper and trailer, and worn out ATV 4x4, and purchasing adequate pesticide sprayer tank and pump.

The oil and gas RMIS data were reported as well.

A letter was sent to Doug Risch (WDNR) requesting an extension on the construction permits for the Bertom-McCartney Boat Landing. The permits were due to expire July 1, 1998, and it became apparent that the time would not be adequate. Permits were for grading/filling, bridge, riprap, and boat ramp.

The list of contacts for the Spill Response Team within the UMRNW&FR, McGregor District was sent to Stan Smith at the RO.

A memo was sent to the RO Historian regarding the compatibility of constructing a septic field at the Lansing warehouse. There were no anticipated impacts on the Refuge, and the septic field was the only feasible way to have water and septic to the warehouse. The adjacent property owner will pay for construction and maintenance of the septic field in exchange for its shared use, and the Refuge will also be allowed to tie into the existing water well, located on the adjacent property.

AT Palmer sent information regarding the District's Imprest Fund to the RO. Agencies are being requested by Washington to eliminate or greatly reduce imprest funds and convert to electronic funds transfer. The McGregor District has a \$1,000 Imprest Fund that is used heavily and turned over as often as required. Being that McGregor is a remote area, many vendors do not take VISA. Not having imprest funds would mean employees would have to pay out of pocket for many small items, and then have to wait for processing to get reimbursed.

AT Palmer attended training on the new FPPS T&A system.

The District began the new payroll reporting system for the pay period May 10-23.

Letters and payments were sent out to all recipients of the Revenue Sharing Act. Local units of government were paid a total of \$35,786 for FY 1997.

ADM Male, ROS Henry, MW Brown, AT Palmer, and BT Henry and BT Casement

all traveled to Winona, Minnesota, to attend the 1998 Refuge Wide Meeting on May 27 and 28. This year's meeting was hosted by the Winona District and the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Activities included slide presentations from all of the District's, a cook-out at Trempealeau, EMP tours of Pool 6, a nature hike, and a tour of the new Trempealeau office and Visitor Center.

A fax was sent to Merlin Bittner (CGS) regarding the transfer order of a FEMA mobile home trailer. A purchase order was cut for the transport of the FEMA mobile home trailer from Grand Forks, North Dakota to McGregor. The trailer will be used for offices and, of course, extra storage space. The mobile home trailer was delivered on June 26. With a lot of luck and the driver's skills, it was slid into the space between the bluff and the office building, with about 4 inches to spare.

Vacancy notices for the new ROS position were sent out to area post offices and other government agencies. A selection was made for the ROS position at the end of the year and forwarded to the Regional Office.

The Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) Summary Contract Action Report (\$25,000 or less) was sent to the RO.

A Monitoring and Studies RONS submission was sent to the RO requesting the addition of a Wildlife Biologist at the McGregor District. With the District's Moist Soil Units, EMP projects, 49 bald eagle nests, nine rookeries, and large waterfowl concentrations, not to mention all of the other natural resources, it was felt that a full time position dedicated to these issues was needed.

RONS submissions for the Driftless Area NWR were sent to the RO, outlining proposals for an interactive display, a biological technician, forest management, native prairie management, and a cell phone to improve communications.

A fax reply was sent to Noel Newberg, National Telecommunications Manager, regarding his request for information about the number of FTE and Seasonal employees authorized for radio system equipment. The DOI is trying to identify the cost associated with narrowbanding these systems.

The Station Continuity Operation Plan for the McGregor District and the Driftless Area NWR were forwarded to the RO. The plans listed the current facilities and warehouses, and operational plans in the event of a fire or explosion.

A response was sent to Doug Johnson in the RO on storm damage on the district because of potential supplemental funding.

Three new computers were received, one of which was purchased by the RO. Arcview GIS software was also purchased. A deskjet color printer and a scanner were ordered.

An ice scratcher boat and motor were donated to the Lansing Fishing Museum.

#### 8.c. Safety

Monthly safety meetings were held on topics ranging from hypothermia to fire emergencies to the employee assistance program.

New fire and pesticide storage cabinets were ordered. The fire extinguisher was relocated in the visitor center. Safety plugs were installed in the outlets in the visitor center.

An environmental compliance questionnaire was completed. An environmental compliance audit was conducted for the District's facilities by the Regional office. Minor items were noted that needed correction. The quarterly water sample was submitted.

ADM Male, ROS Henry, MW Brown, BT Henry, and BT Casement all attended CPR/First Aid Training and were certified at the Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

ROS Henry, BT Casement and Henry, and Laborer Greener were all certified in boater safety.

MW Brown accompanied a safety inspector on an OSHA safety tour of the District's office and warehouses.

#### 8.d. Maintenance

A 6400 MFWD Open Station John Deere tractor with multiple attachments was ordered for the District. The remaining balance (\$15,000) was used to purchase a trailer. It is to replace the smaller tractor being used for snow removal at the DO/VCF. The tractor was specifically ordered so that it would fit under bridges to get to some of the District's landings.

The vandalized toilet riser on the New Albin outhouse was replaced. The Wildlife Observation Deck at the Visitor Center received some major renovations in the form of deck boards and railings that had rotted and were unsafe.

The McGregor office roof was finally repaired to fix the leaking problem in the Visitor Center.

A new alarm system was installed for the main office and visitor center at McGregor and for the Lansing warehouse. The Lansing Field Station heated office space was completed. A telephone and answering machine were installed at the Lansing warehouse.

A new 150 hp motor was installed on the Boston Whaler.

The Cassville warehouse exterior was cleaned and painted.

The McGregor office parking lot was blacktopped.

The door was replaced with a steel door at the Lansing warehouse. Regular vehicle maintenance was performed.

Information on the District's radio units in need of replacement was sent to Meredith Weltmer at the RO. Currently, we have two portables and

two mobile units that need to be replaced.

Tom Vogt was contracted to repair fence at the Fern Ridge Unit of the Driftless Area NWR.

Twenty four brass padlocks were ordered and placed on various structures and gates throughout the District. Now there will be less of a problem with access, and missing and lost keys. Plans were made to construct a visual barrier with a 36" door for the mobile home trailer barricade. This will hopefully make the trailer less noticeable at the Visitor Center.

An aluminum trailer was purchased for hauling lawn mowers and the ATV.

A new John Deere mower was purchased, to the delight of MW Brown. A rough cut mower was purchased for use with the ATV.

#### 8.e. Volunteer Program

The Districts FY 1997 volunteer contribution were calculated for the RCAR report. A total of ten volunteers contributed 96 work days. Three volunteers were recognized for outstanding contributions to the District. They included Dennis Kirschbaum, and Sally Steele for their work on Neotropical Migrant Surveys, and Chris Troendle for his assistance with sign graphics.

A news release was completed and distributed to local papers on volunteer accomplishments in the McGregor district. Letters with a cup, key ring, and Refuge pin were sent to 4 volunteers for their 1997 contributions.

Mary Drenckhahn conducted the wildlife counts from Winona to Prairie du Chien along the river and documented many eagles including nesting activity, turkey vultures and other birds.

The Friends meeting was held in Prairie du Chien and was attended by staff.

The Waukon high school completed construction of eagle boxes and were given a pizza party for the project. Three job shadow high school students from Garnavillo were sponsored for the fall semester and helped with several projects.

### 9. **WILDLIFE**

#### 9.a. Endangered/Threatened Species

The first pair of eagles on a nest for this season was observed on Pool 9 on 1/20/98.

Thirteen dead eagles were reported to the District this year from various locations. Eagles that were sent to the National Wildlife Health Center for necropsy had causes of death of electrocution, shooting, and hit by vehicle. Several eagles were also sent to the Eagle Repository in Colorado. Four injured eagles were sent to the

Minnesota Raptor Center. One eagle from Winnishiek County was submitted to the National Wildlife Health Center and determined to have died of lead poisoning. This bird was banded. The bird banding lab was contacted and said the bird was banded in Ontario, Canada.

A news release was sent out concerning the shooting of an immature bald eagle near Waukon, IA. The eagle was found December 30, 1997 by a pheasant hunter, six miles south of Waukon, near the intersection of Jefferson Road and Old Rossville Drive. The bird was sent to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, where it was determined that the bird had been shot with a shotgun.

A letter was sent to Mike Griffin (IDNR) in response to his request for information on Pool 11 eagle nest locations and activity over the last three years. Rookery locations and information were also included.

Former Driftless Area Refuge ROS, Bruce Luebke, was brought in on a detail for a week to review and orient the new ROS, Cathy Henry. It was a great help to get some of the history of the refuge units and refuge issues.

A proposal was submitted to the Rock Island Ecological Services office for monitoring of Northern monkshood and Iowa Pleistocene snails with recovery funding. Janet Reis was contracted to conduct monitoring of Northern monkshood on the Driftless Area NWR. Janet assisted with the original monitoring done a few years back and was familiar with the methods and sites.

#### 9.b. Waterfowl

The first tundra swans for the fall 1997 season arrived on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Canvasbacks were first observed on the same date with about 600 birds using the Pool 9 Closed Area. On November 4<sup>th</sup> the Coordinated Canvasback Survey was flown on the Refuge. A total of 250,085 canvasbacks were observed on the entire Refuge. This represents the highest total since 1978 when 200,000 cans were observed. Pool 9 had over 70 percent of the birds observed this year. The largest concentration of canvasback ducks ever recorded on the McGregor District was noted on November 11, 1997. A total of approximately 197,000 birds were observed within the lower Pool 9 area.

An apparently injured tundra swan was picked up near Potosi, Wisconsin on Sunday 11/9. The bird was housed overnight at the Cassville Warehouse heated bay. Travel was arranged with WDNR Warden Dewitte who delivered the bird to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison the following day. Medical examinations revealed the bird was suffering from lead poisoning and died several days later.

No real push of migrating puddle ducks was noted within the District until November 22. Waterfowl use at the Turkey River bottoms was documented in preparation for cooperative farming plans. The first wood ducks of the year were observed on March 18.

9.c. Marsh & Waterbirds

Concentrations of great egrets were noted at several locations during October. Seventeen were observed at John Deere Marsh.

A rookery that was found in Pool 9 during December was surveyed for the first time this year. Named the Blackhawk rookery, 151 Great blue heron nests were counted.

9.d. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns & Allies

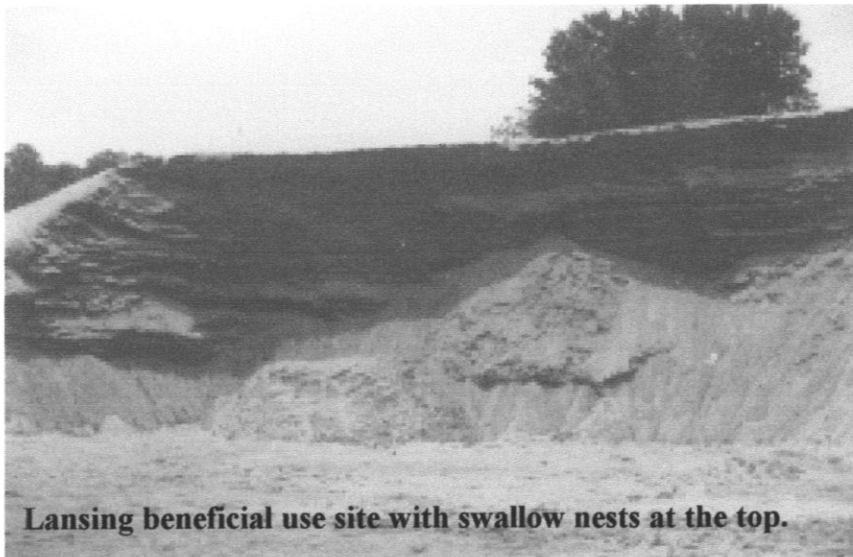
Caspian terns were conspicuous migrants in October with observations reported from throughout the River corridor.

9.e. Raptors

Northern harriers were common the first half of October. A peregrine falcon was observed hunting in the wetland just east of McGregor Bay in Pool 10 in October.

9.f. Other Migratory Birds

A local citizen called to report that bank swallows were nesting in the sand pile at the beneficial use site at Lansing. He was concerned about their nests being destroyed due to removal of sand. ADM Male and ROS Henry determined that sand could still be removed from part of the site without disturbing the nests. In order to allow the birds to complete at least their first clutch, signs were erected to close off the portion the birds were nesting in. No conflicts arose from this situation.



**Lansing beneficial use site with swallow nests at the top.**

9.i. Fisheries Resources

RO Brown was given a fish tag by a local fisherman, Mr. Bruce Richardson of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, over the Memorial Day weekend. After doing some investigating, Ann Runstrom, from the La Crosse Fishery

Resource Office, reported that the tag had been placed on a lake sturgeon in September 1997 near Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. The fish was 45 inches long and weighed 20 pounds.

Information regarding a fish kill in Conway Lake, near Guttenberg, Iowa, was received from Karen Aulwes, IDNR. The fish kill was found to be from natural causes. The fish had apparently moved into the enclosed area in high water and were trapped when river levels dropped. The kill included approximately 2000 Bluegills and pumpkin seeds of all sizes, 50+ Northern pike, 30 white sucker, 15-20 perch, 10-15 channel catfish, and 25-30 small crappies. Dissolved oxygen levels were down to 0.8 ppm in some areas of the lake.

BT Casement and ROS Henry assisted the Iowa DNR Guttenberg Fisheries office with fish sampling in Pool 10.

#### 9.j. Wildlife Diversity

A green-backed heron was sighted at the New Albin landing. About 200 pelicans were using the Turkey River bottoms. Sandhill cranes were observed at the Turkey river bottoms and the New Albin landing.

Noteworthy wildlife on the Driftless Area NWR was a woodcock and a red-tailed hawk nest as well as numerous turkeys. Several fish were found stranded in a pool near Howard Creek at Farmersburg. They were identified as largescale stonerollers. Numerous songbirds were noted on the Driftless Area units this month. Most notable were abundant sedge wrens in one of the fields at the Howard Creek unit. Two turkey nests were found on Driftless Area NWR units as well.

#### 10. ITEMS OF INTEREST

A going away party was held for biotech Ken Dulik who accepted a Special Agent position and left the District.

#### 11. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS